

Cedar River Instream Flow Commission

Final Minutes

SPU Water Quality Lab

June 4th, 2014

Organizations/Members Present:

- Seattle Public Utilities -- Tom Fox, Rand Little, Karl Burton
 - Seattle City Light -- Liz Ablow
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife -- Peggy Miller
 - Army Corps of Engineers -- Scott Pozarycki, Chris Behrens, Marian Valentine, Ken Brettmann
 - Washington Department of Ecology -- Buck Smith
 - Muckleshoot Indian Tribe -- Holly Coccoli
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- I. **Call to Order:** Tom called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved as presented.
- III. **Approval of Draft Minutes:** Approved as presented.
- IV. **News and Notes:** Buck reported that Jackie Klug, the Regional Water Resources Section Manager for Dept. of Ecology, is retiring and will be taking a job with King County. Marian mentioned that the Corps will be getting a new commander for the Seattle District on July 18th. Holly said that with NOAA's recent jeopardy decision, the USACE has secured funding for designing fish passage improvements at the Mud Mountain Dam on the White River and the new dam will be equipped with a modern fish ladder facility.
- V. **Real Time Water Management:**

Hydrologic Conditions: Tom reported that there is still some snow melting in the upper watershed but he expects it will not last longer than another two weeks. May had above average rainfall, which makes it the 4th month in a row to be above the monthly average. The 8-week moving average for inflows has been above the 90 percentile due to the large amount of rain we have received up until just recently. Currently, the snowpack is slightly less than average for this time of year and inflows are below the median level due to the recent dry weather. Tolt inflows are also slightly below the median. The forecast for the next two weeks is for dry weather, which will cause inflows to decrease

over that period. The reservoir is full and has been nearly full for 3 weeks now. Tom expects it to remain full for another week or so. The reservoir will not be full for as long as it has been in the last couple of years so the inflows from the moraine will be lower this year. Flows below Landsburg are approximately 500 cfs but will be dropping to between 300 and 350 cfs over the next week. In May, actual flows were less than estimated unregulated flows because of operations to fill the reservoir.

Liz mentioned that Generator 5 at Masonry Dam was shut down by a lightning strike on May 28th. The strike tripped the unit off-line. The emergency bypass system activated providing flow continuation to the river. However, a leak in the Burst Plate Valve was causing flooding in Generator 5's pit. The valves crack also resulted in an inoperable valve that was not able to throttle closed. The System Control Center put together a step-by-step approach to closing the valve and swapping the flow to the Masonry Dam without any flow drops in the river. The transfer of flows was successful. Generator 6 has been down for a long period of time and is scheduled for maintenance this summer. With both generators needing work it isn't clear if both projects will be accomplished by the end of the summer. Liz was told by Buck to thank the crew for the good thoughtful effort taken to prevent any sudden drop in flows down the Cedar River. Downramping criteria have been successfully met over the last month.

Water demand is below average at 140 MGD but close to last year at this time. Cumulative water consumption is well below the allowable limit and Tom expects the yearly total to be close to last year. Model runs predict that, given a very dry summer, we could experience conditions that trigger the alert phase of the water shortage contingency plan. No rain is expected for the next week and the long range forecast calls for warmer than average temperatures and normal rainfall.

Lake Washington and Weather: Ken reported that the Lake had filled to 22' last Thursday. The Corps will keep the lake full as long as possible before involuntary drawdown. Two flumes are operating 24/7 and the Corps hopes that they can run both flumes well into July this year.

Fish Update: Karl reported that the steelhead and trout redd surveys were complete. The final survey was last Monday and no redds were observed. There is a total of 19 trout redds and no steelhead redds this year. Some of the trout redds are vulnerable to dewatering. Fish counts at the locks began on Sunday, June 1st.

Supplemental Water Block Allocation: Rand handed out a packet with the redd vulnerability table, an allocation plan for the supplemental blocks of water and recovery options in case the fall rains do not return on time. Of the nineteen observed trout redds, 7 are protected by HCP base flows, 8 are protected by the supplemental water allocation plan and 4 are not protected from dewatering. The four unprotected redds would require additional water

far and above what is available in the 2 supplemental blocks of water. It would require 2800 additional acre-feet of water to protect 2 of the 4 vulnerable trout redds and the flow reduction to base flows would be abrupt and steep. The IFC decided to accept the presented allocation plan A contingent upon votes from Randy and Tim who were not able to make the meeting. Rand said he would call Randy and Tim to get their input.

Army Corps Challenge Grant Discussion: Marian handed out a packet listing and detailing the Corps' prioritized infrastructure projects. The Stoney Gate valve replacement was third on the list. Marian said that it would be helpful if the IFC wrote a letter to the Corps' detailing their support for the valve replacement project and what the IFC contribution would be for the design. Marian said that even 10% of the cost of design from the IFC would be helpful to show that the City, state and federal agencies, and the Muckleshoot Tribe were players "with some skin in the game". The design is expected to cost between \$500K and \$700K. Construction is expected to cost between 5 to 10 million dollars and time for construction is 1 to 1.5 years. The IFC agreed to discuss the possibility of writing a letter of support to the Corps and an appropriate amount of funding for a contribution to the project.

VI. Supplemental Studies:

Peak Flow Adaptive Management Study Phase II

Topic 1 – Karl reported that the landslide on the Cedar River covered some of the arrays in one of the Cadillac sites. Andy Gendaszek measured some elevations at the site and said that at least two of the arrays near the landslide have an extra 30 to 50 cm of debris deposited on the river bed. The other arrays were out in the flow and were not able to be measured but Andy thinks they are less affected by the landslide than the two areas he measured. Karl intends to retrieve the arrays in the first 3 weeks of August. A WCC crew will provide the labor for the retrieval.

Topic 2 – Off Channel Habitat Inventory and Peak Flow Assessment
Rand said that he and Karl re-surveyed the upper half of the river last to see whether the recent peak flows had changed any of the features identified in the last survey or added any additional features. Most features were not changed much although some side channels had new LWD deposited at the upstream end with fine sediment accumulations in the wood. Two of the larger side channels appeared to be downcut at the upstream end and might be connected at lower flows than their respective connection flows prior to the high flow event. They will survey the lower half of the river soon and report back to the IFC.

Topic 3 – Rand reported that USGS crews had characterized the geomorphic succession study reach. The USGS will use 3 different off channel habitat types to investigate differences in juvenile fish use and insect assemblages.

VII. July 2nd IFC Meeting:

- 1) Discussion of IFC letter to Corps showing support for Stoney Gate valve replacement
- 2) Off Channel Habitat Study

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM